



COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2016

Belize City Hall Council Chambers

Members to be attending

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Jason Edwards | Councillor |
| 3. Mrs. Alifa Elrington Hyde | Councillor |
| 4. Dr. Alain Gonzalez | Councillor |
| 5. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman Cuellar | Councillor |
| 6. Mr. Kevin Singh | Councillor |
| 7. Mr. Michael Theus | Councillor |
| 8. Mr. Dion Leslie | Councillor |
| 9. Mr. Philip Willoughby | Councillor |
| 10. Mr. Bernard Pitts | Councillor |
| 11. Mr. Dean Samuels | Councillor |

12. Candice Burke, City Administrator

Persons to be attending by invitation

1. Floyd Williams, City Engineer
2. Marilyn Ordonez, Director of Finance
3. Sharlene Rudon, Director of Administration
4. Margaret McKenzie, Legal Counsel
5. Residents of Kings Park community

Agenda Items

1. Prayer
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Mayor's announcements/matters
 - I. Kings Park Zoning
 - II. BTL Park Anniversary
 - III. Estimate to paint Commercial Center
5. Notices/reports/ discussion/information
 - Social Security loan (Theus)

- T-Shirts CAB Member (Latchman)
- Update on Sanitation Meeting (Leslie)
- GPS Tracking System (Leslie)
- Taxi Moratorium (Pitts)
- Taxi Plated (Pitts)
- Database for Traffic Dept (Pitts)
- Burial Policy (Elrington)
- People Coalition Meeting (Elrington)
- Assistance school Ms.Reynolds (Willoughby)

6. Any other business
7. Petitions from members of the public
8. Questions from members of the public
9. Request for leave to move adjournment of Council on matters of urgent public notice
10. Motions relating to Council business or sitting
11. Adjournment
12. Setting the date for the next Council meeting



MINUTES OF ORDINARY CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday January 26th, 2016
Belize City Hall Mayor's Office

Present:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr. Darrell Bradley | Mayor |
| 2. Mr. Jason Edwards | Councillor |
| 3. Dr. Alain Gonzalez | Councillor |
| 4. Mrs. Hyacinth Latchman Cuellar | Councillor |
| 5. Mr. Kevin Singh | Councillor |
| 6. Mr. Michael Theus | Councillor |
| 7. Mr. Dion Leslie | Councillor |
| 8. Mr. Philip Willoughby | Councilor |
| 9. Mr. Bernard Pitts | Councilor (1:30pm) |
| 10. Ms. Alifa Elrington | Councilor (1:35pm) |
| 11. Mr. Dean Samuels | Deputy Mayor (2:08pm) |

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| 1. Ms. Candice Miller | City Administrator |
| 2. Mr. Jermaine Hyde | Administrative Officer |

Present by invitation:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Floyd Williams | City Engineer |
| 2. Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez | Director of Finance |
| 3. Ms. Sharlene Rudon | Director of Administration |
| 4. Ms. Margaret McKenzie | Director Legal Services |
| 5. Mrs. Marilyn Garvin | Chief Internal Auditor |

Absent with explanation:

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:22 pm.

Councilor Jason Edwards opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Mayor welcomed Councilors and Directors to the Council meeting. Mayor informed council that he invited members of King's Park community to this meeting. He stated that at two prior meetings a draft of zoning bylaws were tabled and councilors were given copies. He added that Ms. McKenzie has been doing tremendous work in researching and following the process of the bylaw in its passage. Ms. McKenzie had advised him to redo a public consultation with the community and involve the Ministry of Local Government in the process. The residents requested editing of the language of the bylaw and raised some concerns relating to the parking and making the map particularize. He added that since the process started six years ago, Ms. McKenzie averted to the fact that the neighborhood had undergone significant changes over that period and requires consultation and analysis. He proposed that a sub-committee be formed which would be co chaired by a member of the Council and

a director and suggested Councilor Theus and Ms. McKenzie respectively, with 3 to 5 residents of the area. He indicated that they have consultation for another month and then Council make a final vote on the bylaw. The Mayor stated that he was extremely happy with the Palm Grove Estate Bylaw and how it was backed by public support. Council applauds the effort and express gratitude to Ms. McKenzie for her role in both Palm Grove Estate and Kings Park Bylaw and her investigative work and guidance throughout the process. He indicated that Palm Grove Bylaw is with the Solicitor General's office and they expect a response as soon as possible so that it can go to the House of Representative for a negative resolution. When this occurs it would then become law and the residents will have peace of mind.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting was circulated and Councillors were given time to read thoroughly before confirming.

The following corrections were made to the Minutes of January 12, 2016:

- i) Paragraph 48. Which is to be read as: "... and feels that it was not right."
- ii) *Paragraph 84. Which is to be read as: "... Councilor Willoughby stated the he along with Councilor Leslie."*
- iii) *Paragraph 2. Replace "was" for the word "with".*
- iv) *Paragraph 10. Insert the word "what".*
- v) *Paragraph 3. Remove the words "of property".*
- vi) *Paragraph 52 should be removed.*

The Mayor moved for a motion that the minutes of the Meeting held on January 12, 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. Councilor Leslie motioned for the approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilor Hyde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Darrell Bradley

1. Mayor invited residence of King's Park into the meeting at 1:39pm. He stated that Council was grateful for the residence in attendance.
2. Mayor indicated that the past zoning bylaw was led by residence, which is the same process that is occurring with the King's Park bylaw.
3. Mayor opened the floor to the residence of King's Park.
4. Dr. Gary Longsworth- A street King's Park: Stated that he was 13 years old when he first moved in the area which was brand new and the initial group moving there started with the intention to live by bylaws which were in the making. Since then he has seen encroachment in the neighborhood to the point where 6th street is fully commercialized, A-street has 2 embassies and a law office. There's continuous insurgency of businesses in the area.
5. Mayor added that the regulations are timely because Belize City is changing and more commercial encroachment is occurring. Precedent has been set in the case of 6th street and within a short time the character of that area will change.
6. Mrs. Sylvestre-A street King's Park: Stated that she has lived in that area from 1978 and at that time it was strictly residential. The Covenant that was signed stated a base line residential value and stated that no one could build causing a nuisance or disturbance

in the area. After 6th street residents lobbied for zoning, they were upset and fearful of losing the area. With respect to the 6 story building under construction, there's no other building of that size in the area. When compared to other buildings of that size like the Matalon and Gordon Roe they were placed on much larger properties, unlike this one which is being placed on a small lot. A-street is a very short street so how could they have gotten permission to build there from CBA? City Council really needs to step in. Additionally, this building will be in the path of planes since many times depending on the wind, planes are within 50-60 feet of Mr. Auil's house. One small misjudgement and it will be catastrophe.

7. The Mayor highlighted 2 important issues. First, being the passage of zoning bylaws and secondly, a building on A-street under construction which is of significant concern. He indicated that council shared the same view as residents that the bylaws were long outstanding and that 6 years is too long a period for it not to be approved.
8. Councilor Willoughby stated that there was a public consultation in the park when the bylaws were initially tabled. Councilor Leslie added that the bylaw at that time was approved in theory but the proper legal channels had to follow. It had to be taken to the solicitor general's office for passage, which was out of the hands of City Council. Councilor Willoughby pointed out that there needed to be a clear definition of what the King's Park area was. He stated that there was a second bylaw that included West Landivar area.
9. Councilor Theus pointed out that at the time then Councilor Roger Espejo spoke to him about zoning, he told him about the zoning within Hone Park area confirmed by Mr. Henry Fairweather but it was uncertain if those bylaws extended to King's Park.
10. Mayor added that with respect to Palm Grove it was led by community champions. Likewise, King's Park bylaws are being led by active community members and council should be satisfied that this is the will of the community.
11. Mr. John Searle- Princess Margaret Drive: Stated that this is the second or third time residents have gotten an opportunity to voice concerns, but for now a regulation is needed urgently to prevent any new construction. The permission given to construct without consulting City Council was wrong and disrespectful. Measurements used at the airstrip are based from sea level. These are internationally set aviation standards that all pilots use. This property has already been filled way above the sea level; hence it will have an effect on the pilots flying aircrafts in the area. They need something firm in place.
12. Mayor informed Council that if proper zoning regulations were in place then residents wouldn't need to take on such issues. The regulations would then guide the necessary regulatory bodies like the CBA and DOE in their decision making process.
13. Mrs. Lauren Smith- 18th Street: Stated that the original covenant used when the Kings Park Area was being set up intended for the area to be residential only and stated that no nuisance should be caused to neighbors and depicted it to be for families. Her primary concern as it relates to the large buildings in the area involves parking. These businesses set up in the area and make no accommodation for parking and the residents suffer because they can't access to their homes due to patrons blocking their driveways and gates.

14. She added that it is their hope as a community that the zoning is approved prior to the construction of the new building. She stated that they don't have any issues with the low impact businesses but the larger buildings become a terrible nuisance in the area. She informed Council that 18th Street is already being scooted by commercial developers, and for this reason she is pleading for assistance. They love their neighborhood and it wouldn't be fair to loose what they had. All the community really wants is peace and tranquility in the area.
15. Mayor reminded Councilors that with the previous zoning bylaw in Palm Grove the fundamental issue was the definition of the area. He asked them to look at the map and pointed to the area that was shaded gray, indicating that that would be the proposed area to be zoned and this was agreed at the last public meeting.
16. Mrs. Soli Arguelles- Baymen Avenue: Stated that the residents have been down this road before and all they are asking for is trouble free neighborhood. She added that they would like City Council to get together with Central Building Authority because it is obvious that there is a deeper problem between the two entities since CBA gave permission to build without consulting with CitCo. She stated that occurrences like these will not cease until there is proper communication and collaboration from both CitCo and CBA. She suggested that a non-political officer from the Council be allowed to sit on the CBA so that the two can function better and cohesively.
17. She added that without proper zoning laws, the residents are fighting a wild fire that will get out of control. She pointed out that she has lived in the area from 1976 and over the past few years she has seen an increase in commercial structures and with it came an increase in break-ins and stolen vehicles.
18. The Mayor stated his agreement with Mrs. Arguelles comments, adding that there have been countless meetings with officials from Central Government, Ministry of Housing and CBA to deal with issues like these. He added that the urban planning powers in the country are dissected, whereby the municipality does part and the central government does part but there's not intersection of the two.
19. He added that the CBA examine plans on a technical standpoint but they do not consider the context under which it is built. He said that they will look at the structure, proper sewage and parking ratio and if it meets these requirements they issue the permit. However it might not adequate for the context of a community.
20. The Mayor said that when a commercial building of two or more stories is being built in a residential area, a consultation with the community must be done prior to approval being granted so that residents are aware of what is coming as opposed to them learning about it when piles are driven.
21. Mrs. Arguelles stated that this is not being done and inquired in this is a written policy because CBA grants approval base solely on the integrity of the structure. She added that many of the large buildings in King's Park was done without consultation especially along Newtown Barracks and Princess Margaret drive.
22. Councilor Willoughby pointed out that the area along Newtown Barracks is not included in the shaded area that is to be zoned.
23. Councilor Elrington stated that the essence of their concern is that fact that over the years the area has gotten smaller and smaller because there is continuous insurgency of commercial activity and nothing is being done. She added that she herself has lived in the area, born and raised and it is a nuisance. She highlighted that the area over the

last 10 to 15 years keeps getting smaller, and what was a peaceful area is now a hazard due to the increased activity. Baymen avenue without pedestrian ramps would be problems she added, and on 2nd Street where there's one small Chinese owned shop that daily becomes a hazard due to the high traffic and patrons who deprive residents of access to their yards by blocking driveways.

24. The Mayor informed Council that the current position of the residents is that the proposed area to be zoned includes only the shaded area of the map, and he would discourage opening up the boundaries to include new area, as this would lose the consensus of the residents and negatively affect the progress of the current proposal. He pointed out that the shaded area is primarily residential in character and meets the test of zoning as residential.
25. Mrs. Lauren Smith agreed with the Mayor, stating that she was advised similarly to not open the boundaries as it would delay the process and that the existing commercial buildings will fall within the scope of a grandfather clause, however when these properties are sold they should revert to being residential. She stated that they want to proceed with the zoning as is and later if an amendment is needed to include other streets then consult with residents and put forward necessary change.
26. Ms. McKenzie indicated that research was done and she learnt that one reason why the bylaw wasn't passed is because the Ministry of Local Government had some concerns and needed feedback from Council in terms of meeting the requirement. Some of the questions raised were:

- i) Did the Council approve the change of name
- ii) Did the Council approve the size of the zoning area
- iii) What method of advertisement was used to inform residents about the bylaw

Ms. McKenzie pointed out that they the questions are simplified ones and the Ministry is only waiting for a response to move ahead.

27. Mrs. Lauren Smith stated that Ms. Maestre and Roger Espejo already answered these questions and she along with other residents was copied in the mail.
28. Ms. McKenzie suggested that since both the residents and Council are satisfied with the proposed bylaw, a small committee be formed to tweak where necessary and formally reply to the ministry.
29. Mayor added that the previous City Council had agreed to and approved this bylaw and it was sent to the Ministry of Local Government where it is between the National Assembly and Solicitor General's office.
30. Mayor indicated that one of the main concerns of the Local Government ministry was the consultation of residents, so he would issue notice for another public consultation not to delay the process, but to so the ministry that it is not a Council initiative but it is what the residents want and agree to.
31. Mr. John Searle asked what effect the bylaw would have on the buildings currently under construction.
32. Mayor indicated that it would be a separate issue because the zoning bylaw will govern construction of buildings after its passing, he added that it cannot be retrospective. He added that with a bylaw in place, the regulatory bodies will then have to work within the confines of the bylaws when reviewing proposals prior to giving approvals.

33. Mrs. Sylvester asked Council if there's anything that Council can do to look into the process by which the approval was given and the building itself to at least reduce the height since its currently under construction.
34. Councilor Edwards informed the residents that he is the Councilor that sits on the LBA and has the portfolio of Urban Planning. He further stated that when they learnt of the building, permission was already given to the owner by the CBA. He added that they will look into it and make sure it doesn't happen again.
35. Mrs. Laura Longsworth asked if there is anything that can be done to reduce the number of floors on the building.
36. Mayor indicated that they are in communications with Civil Aviation and they had expressed concern over the building, even though they had given a no objection. Additionally he indicated that the developer should be approached and a balance should be made between the residents and the residents.
37. Mayor recommended that a consultation be done to reinforce the point that the residents want these regulation and to ensure that the community is involved. He added that a smaller committee should be formed with about three residents that will work with Ms. McKenzie and Councilor Theus.
38. The residents agreed that Mrs. Jessie Graniel, Dr. Gary Longsworth and Mrs. Lauren Smith will be the three residents to sit on the steering committee which will meet Monday February 1st 2016.
39. The Council offers its gratitude to the residents of Kings Park who took time to attend the meeting and for the tremendous insight and sensible representation they made. Likewise Council is grateful for the residents who have been involved in the process over the past six years, Council sees it as a serious and will move forward with the bylaw.
40. Mayor asked Ms. Rudon to arrange a public consultation would be held on Thursday February 11th 2016 at 6-8pm at the Lopez Mateos Park. Councilor Latchman will be in charge of the public announcement and Ms. McKenzie will do a power point presentation.
41. Mayor informed Council that the 2nd anniversary of the BTL park is approaching and as such there is an event planned for Friday February 12th 2016 at the park. It starts with a kids section followed by an adult section. He added that the artist will be Gyptian and all Councilors are invited.
42. Mayor presented Council with an estimate to paint the Commercial Center and put on a stucco finish on the exterior. Councilor Singh stated that it would not be a good idea to do anything on the building since a decision hasn't been made in regards to what the building will be used for.
43. Mayor said the proposal will be placed on hold until Council decides what they will do with the building.

Councilor Theus

44. Mayor informed the Council that they had an initial meeting with representatives from Social Security Board and that Mrs. Ordonez circulated the draft proposal of the loan. He said that they have already decided to give Council the loan for the manhole covers.

45. Mayor moved for a motion to authorize Councilor Leslie and Councilor Theus along with Ms. Miller, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Ordonez to negotiate and conclude the terms of the loan for the sum, interest rate, collateral all in the proposal. This would be brought back to Council for final ratification, approval and affixing of Council's seal. Councilor Latchman-Cuellar motioned for the authority to negotiate, seconded by Councilor Singh. All Councilors present voted unanimously for the authority to negotiate.

MOTION CARRIED

[Mayor left the room 3:25 and Deputy Mayor chaired]

Councillor Latchman

46. Councillor Latchman informed the Council that Mayor was asked to contribute TShirts for the Child Care Friendly Initiative program. The shirts would be for the children and the members of the steering committee. The children will choose the design that will go on the shirts along with the Council's logo. She said that they have media appearances and they are embarking on a strong PR campaign and promoting the work of the kids and what they do and their entitlements. Mr. Thompson requested a "stop bullying campaign" and it's being aired on Wave Radio.
47. Councilor Latchman stated that she wanted to acknowledge Ms. McKenzie, as she is one of the stronger members on the Technical Steering Committee, Mr. Louis Thompson who has been giving a lot of ideas for the program and Mr. Phillip Singh for actively participating.
48. Mrs. McKenzie indicated that the purpose of the Child Care Friendly Initiative undertaking is to acquire certification which will open room for funding from international donor organizations (UNICEF).

Councilor Leslie

49. Councilor Leslie informed Council that a meeting was held with the Administration to plan the reshuffling of the Sanitation department.
50. He stated that managers agreed with the changes suggested which included the complete rotation of supervisors. Additionally there are three head supervisors who will supervise three work crews each and a report is submitted each day to the manager and a weekly report will be submitted to the City Engineer, highlighting the work that was completed.
51. Councilor Leslie said he has an estimate for a GPS tracking device, which he is proposing to install in the two Isuzu trucks because the trucks are being used for personal runs.
52. Councilor Pitts recommended that they consider installing the device in other Council vehicles as well.
53. Councilor Leslie stated that it would cost \$700.00 for purchasing the device and its installation. He added that there is a monthly cost of \$15 to get it serviced and it gives printouts of gas usage and miles travelled.
54. Councilor Elrington stated that if Council will invest in the device then proper disciplinary actions must be taken against those individuals who are abusing the use of the vehicles. Managers and Supervisors need to write up the drivers who are seen all over Belize City in the Council vehicles that have no permission to be driving about.

55. Councilor Willoughby indicated that Managers need to be held accountable to since they are the ones in some instances that requests junior staff to do personal runs.
56. Deputy Samuels requested that Councillors state their support for the devices.
[Mayor returned 3:41]
57. Mayor indicated that the installation of devices is a sensible undertaking and at a cost of \$15 monthly to service, it is more than practical.
58. A vote was taken for the approval of the installation of the device, Councilors Singh, Leslie, Edwards, Willoughby, Latchman, Deputy Samuels and Mayor Bradley voted in favor and Councilor Elrington voted against. **MOTION CARRIED.**
59. Councilor Theus indicated that he and Councilor Leslie met with the investor to get some insight into the project. He added that they are to meet with the Minister in relation to the title of the property. A proposal will then follow for Council to look at and it will go to Cabinet for their approval.
60. Mayor asked Councilors to state their view on the Taxi Moratorium. Councilor Willoughby indicated that if it is open it cannot be a free for all. Deputy Samuels stated that there must be some control mechanism in place. He added that priority should be given to those taxi operators who have been renting for several years and are now looking to own their own taxi.
61. Mayor stated that he has received requests that he has granted allowing people to get Taxi licenses and it creates an unfair standard where some people get and others don't get.
62. Councilor Edwards stated that standards need to set for those who intend to operate taxi because there are some taxis that are not fitted to be in use on the streets.
63. Mayor asked if Council can develop the standards required for taxis.
64. Councilor Leslie stated that it can, just research the stipulations like the cars cannot be operated past a certain year, the ac must be working etc and this will weed out some of the persons who shouldn't be operating and then standardize the taxi fee.
65. Councilor Theus indicated that he has looked at laws and best practices to govern taxi service in developed and neighboring Caribbean countries and he recommends to Councilor Pitts is to form a committee to look at regulatory system that would take the responsibility of issuing taxi license away from the Council and put it in the hands of traffic advisory board that will have oversight and input over taxi operators where they will determine how many new plates will be issued on an annual basis. He added that a manual should be implemented that would govern that industry and no license should be given to a person with serious criminal history and licenses should be reviewed annually. An increase in rate to license vehicles as taxis should be considered and additional fees should be implemented either annually or monthly for parking consideration on streets or designated taxi stands. He suggested that a strategic plan be put in place with input of taxi association to standardize make, model and year of vehicles within a reasonable time frame. There must be standardization in color with visible numbers painted on a vehicle. He added that Operators should wear a standardized uniform shirt depending on the association they belong to, as a part of the plan. He stated that emphasis must be place in opening a credit line with one of the banks at a concessionary rate for replacement and standardization of vehicles, as well as a pricing mechanism and zoning system needs to be adopted or introduction of fare meters. This he said, will pave the way for operators into pay into Social Security which

- would form basis of a health insurance scheme. This will secure the industry for Belizeans.
66. Councilor Theus stated that there needs to be enhancement on the dollar van and city bus sector. He suggested that the dollar van be rebranded into an omnibus service allowing them to operate on designated areas and routes, which eliminates competition with city buses. Council needs to be proactive and have city bus operators either amalgamate the operations into one company bringing efficiency and safety to the industry. Or have the buses operate in time slots based on needs. This should include down sizing of city buses and implementation of more bus stops.
 67. Councilor Elrington stated that looking back on previous minutes, all of what Councilor Theus suggested at some point in time an attempt was made to implement them. She added that unless it becomes a disparity for this Council, these changes would not be good.
 68. Mayor suggested that it be looked at systematically, he indicated that the genesis of the problem is whether Council and management thinks that we should move from not giving taxi license and if this is the case, what should be put in place.
 69. Ms. McKenzie stated that the Motor vehicle and Road traffic Act, there is provision where Council is responsible for traffic management inclusive of the suggestions made.
 70. Mayor asked Councilors to indicate by straw pole whether they are in favor of keeping the moratorium or moving from it.
 71. Councilors Theus, Singh, Edwards, Willoughby, Samuels, Leslie and Pitts voted in favor of moving the moratorium while Councillors Elrington and Latchman voted to keep it in place. Mayor abstained from voting. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 72. Councilor Pitts stated that he has met with Traffic Manager and City Administrator in regards to the taxi plates coming out of Transport department and suggested that they speak with the person in charge to address the issuance of taxi plates from Transport Department.
 73. Councilor Pitts indicated that as a part of the new traffic measures, he intended to reactivate the traffic advisory committee to assist in the issuance of taxi license.
 74. Mayor asked who would determine how taxi licenses are granted.
 75. Councilor Theus indicated that the traffic advisory board meet and look at the number of taxis needed and then decide on how many license will be given and who gets it, thereby relieving Council of that burden.
 76. Deputy Samuels objected stating that that suggestion opens room for bias and corruption.
 77. Councilor Elrington suggested that Councilor Pitts, Traffic Manager and the City Engineer look at the situation and present proposals to Council in terms of dealing with the issuance of taxi licenses.
 78. Mayor added that since taxi operators are suppose to be in a union, then the heads of the union should write a letter recommending the issuance of license to it's member and then a fee be levied on the unions.
 79. Mayor stated that Councilor Pitts will meet with his technical staff and bring three proposals back to Council for them to vote on at the next meeting.

Councilor Elrington

80. Councilor Elrington stated that the exhumation has not been carried out since the last meeting. Mayor stated that Council will not look at a specific case but rather restructure the policy by which it operates.
81. The Mayor stated that in moving forward the policy of the Council will now be:
- i) that only a spouse can be buried in a tomb of a deceased spouse. The person requesting the reopening must be a child or next of kin of the deceased. Proof of this in the form of a marriage certificate should be requested.
 - ii) For a child to be buried in a parent's tomb, a consent must be signed by all surviving siblings.
 - iii) A parent can be buried in the grave of his or her child.

[Councilor Leslie left at 4:30pm]

82. Mayor proposes a meeting with both parties to resolve the situation amicably.
83. Councilor Elrington indicated that People's Coalition is a community based organization to create a better city. It will be holding their first meeting on Thursday January 28th 2016. This coalition stretches to the entire Belize district. The idea of the Coalition is to build a safer and cleaner city and one of the first projects is to target overgrown abandoned lots. With the assistance of the Police Department and business community, the Coalition will bush the properties and get them sprayed with herbicide to prevent regrowth.
84. Councilor Pitts stated that there have been several meetings with the traffic manager and himself in relation to developing new traffic measures. He added that one of the first measures is to address the dollar van situation. They will be more structured and each van will be issued with a number so it can be easily identified. Additionally, they will dialogue with Transport concerning the taxi plates that are being issued to operate within Belize City.
85. Councilor Pitts also stated that they would reactivate the Traffic advisory Board since it has been dormant.
86. Councilor Pitts inform Council that they are looking at a new database for traffic to incorporate drivers license. This new database will eliminate the need for having Mr. Hallsal on a retainer for IT servicing.

87. Councilor Elrington raise the issue of vehicles without license plates, stating that its something the Coalition will be looking at. She indicated that the traffic department was out of plates and there are vehicles being driven in the city without plates that are used for criminal activities.
88. Councilor Pitts stated that it was addressed at a meeting he had with the manager. Ms. Miller added that about a week the department was without plates but they contacted the provider and it was dealt with.
89. Councilor Pitts added that Mr. Jenkins has instituted the citywide checkpoints to address this situation.
90. Councilor Pitts suggested that Council acquire a tow truck to deal with parking issues and address derelict vehicles left around the city. This would also bring in revenue to the Council, and he added that there needs to be a designated area at 4.5 miles to store towed vehicles.
91. Deputy Samuels said that in terms of derelict vehicles it would work, but for vehicles being towed for illegal parking it exposes the Council to litigation in the event something happens to a vehicle while stored on our compound.
92. Councilor Singh stated that we need to ensure that our compound is properly secured since our vehicles have been vandalized while parked there.
93. Councilor Pitts raised the issue of the Admin Officer post at Traffic department. He indicated that he and the manager were dissatisfied with the selection. He added that it was his hope that the Mayor would have intervened. He stated that he spoke to the City Administrator and they both have their own views on it. He indicated that as Councilor with responsibility for Traffic, that he would have been able to make the final call. He said that with the new traffic measures that are to be implemented they didn't want somebody new to come in. Additionally they were hoping to elevate other staff members based on the new post that would have been vacant.
94. Mayor stated that he reviewed the matter and in his view the role of the Council is to step in for the citizen not to replace technical staff. He stated that the technical people are the experts and after Councilor Pitts and Councilor Elrington contacted him about it, he spoke to the City Administrator and other people on the interview panel and they related to him the discussion that occurred during the interview. He stated that in accordance with the regulations, the post was advertised internally in relation to the post and this was complied with. He added that the interview was done and six people sat on the panel and four persons were interviewed and two were short-listed. There was substantive discussion and a voted was done and the person who was selected by

the majority of the panel and likewise that the person chosen has worked with the Council for over 20 years and has worked in the traffic department for over 10 years. He continued by saying that citizen would be concern if there was a flaw in the process not because the decision was not in accordance with what he would have done as Mayor. He stated that the basis of it is whether the process that was followed and the outcome that resulted was unfair and in his view he cannot say yes. The person selected was of the view of the majority of persons on the panel the most qualified and stated specific areas of the interview where this person shined.

95. He added that as Mayor he looked to see if the process was flawed, was there a prejudice or was anyone called to the interview panel somehow disenfranchised or was it a situation where the people on the committee acted in bad faith and if that was the case he would intervene but he cannot say this was the case.
96. Councilor Pitts stated that he respects that view but lets not have someone on the panel with a casting vote but instead let it be an odd number.
97. Councilor Elrington stated that there is a double standard because it was not done in all the other interviews held. Additionally in her opinion, the views of the persons who must work with the individual should have taken into consideration. She stated that she cannot understand why it even went to an interview panel.
98. The Mayor stated that it went to an interview panel because that is what the regulation calls for.
99. Councilor Elrington stated that there is a double standard because interviews weren't held for every vacancy that came up since the regulation was implemented.
100. Mayor stated that in every subsequent interview Ms. Rudon, Ms. McKenzie and Ms. Miller must ensure that the regulation is followed.
101. Ms. Miller indicated that in this interview the regulation was followed.
102. Councilor Elrington stated that it is not followed in every instance. Mayor stated that in those other instance they will ensure it is adhered to.
103. Ms. Rudon stated that the position for Admin Officer in the Office of the Mayor was advertised both internally and externally at the same time instead of internally first then externally.
104. Ms. Miller stated that there is nothing stopping the internal interviews before and then choosing from the external pool. She added that the consideration that was made when the directive was given was simply the urgency in filling the post whereby if nobody was found internally then there are already external applications that they can

choose from. She stated that in this instance there was an interview and a vote where it was split three to three. The Director of Administration, Councilor Pitts and Traffic Manager voted for one individual, the City Engineer, HR Manager and herself voted for another, at the end of the vote she inform the panel that she would have the deciding vote and she gave the panel the opportunity to reconsider their vote at that point. Nobody opted to change their vote.

105. Councilor Elrington asked who makes up the interview board. The Mayor indicated that it only specifies that the City Administrator sits on it. He added that only the members of the Disciplinary Committee are specifically listed.
106. Mayor requested that in the future there is an odd number of persons sitting on the interview panel. Councilor Elrington stated that she had raised this issue six months ago to avoid a situation like this.
107. Mayor added that Councilor Elrington is saying that in other times the regulation wasn't followed but in this specific situation there was no flaw in what transpired. He indicated he reviewed the process looking for a flaw and there was none.
108. Councilor Elrington stated that the Councilor for the department which the post is being filled should be a part of the interview panel and that is where the flaw occurred.
109. Mayor indicated that there was no flaw because Councilor Pitts was a part of the interview panel since the vacancy was in traffic department. Councilor Elrington stated that Councilor Singh was supposed to be on the panel as well because it was decided that he would sit on all interviews.
110. Mayor pointed out that the regulations called for one Councilor to be on the panel and that Councilor was Councilor Pitts. He added that the City Council act, Social Security act and BTB act all have a provision that states the vacancy or any problem with the numbering of a board would never invalidate a decision of that institution. He asked Ms. Miller if the person was already notified of being the successful candidate, to which she stated yes, she was informed. Mayor told Councilor Elrington that she would perpetrate a monstrous fraud of this institution if she would reverse the decision that a constituted committee made.
111. Councilor Elrington stated that she agrees that the position cannot be taken away from the individual but she felt that the other individual was cheated out of her position that she acted in.
112. Mayor stated that while he agrees that if the person was acting in a position she should have been selected for the post, but pointed out that she has substituted her

opinion for the body they have charged with making that decision and as such perpetrated the worse flaw because of being guided something personal and wrong.

113. Councilor Elrington stated her discontent that decisions are being made by Council and it is ignored and not followed. She added that only some Councilors get to make decisions and it is unfair.
114. Mayor informed Council that he had an audience with several residents of Rcaecourse Street and they would want to make it a one way street. He added that he spoke with the city engineer and the traffic manager they would consult with the residents for a period of one month implement it as one way going towards the canal. They also requested a speed bump be installed to slow down vehicular traffic.
115. Mayor requested that PR department publicize this and a traffic officer be placed on the street. The residents should be consulted and at the end of February council should make a final decision.
116. Councilor Pitts stated that Council needs to make a decision on a situation at the corner of Freetown Road and St. Thomas streets. He added that Mr. Bennett assembled a canvas there and it blocks the light from the lamp post which puts pedestrians in danger of being robbed when they pass by at night. Mayor asked that the City Engineer visit the area and make a recommendation to Council.

[Councilor Elrington left 5:35]

117. Councilor Willoughby voiced his discontent in the leaving of Councilor Elrington prior to a proper closing of the meeting. He indicated that it was rude of the Councilor to leave.
118. Councilor Willoughby stated that Council needs to seriously consider getting political advisor to help with the promotion of their work, accomplishments and keeping together as a unit. Councilor Edwards shared his agreement with Councilor Willoughby and added that it would be beneficial to the Council. Councilor Latchman also stated her agreement with Councilor Willoughby's recommendation for the advisor.

Other Business

119. City Engineer presented a request from Mr. Michael Searle to open public transportation on the river. They plan to build small wooded dock (10X4) and kiosks for ticket vending (8X8) at 7 locations along the Belize River. He stated that the Planning department has no objection to the project. Councilor Willoughby pointed out that permission to use water ways must come from Department of Environment. Deputy Samuels indicated that all he requires is a no objection letter from Council to

take to DOE. Mayor indicated that he would do the letter, but he can only build after getting approval from DOE.

120. The City Engineer presented a request on behalf of the Ms. Marjorie Davis for lease of public reserve on Freetown Road. He stated that her lease has expired and she's reapplying for renewal. He said that planning doesn't object to it. Councilors voted unanimously to renew lease
121. The City Engineer presented a request on behalf of Mr. Robert Chang owner of Twins to lease a portion of the reserve on St. Thomas Street. This was tabled at the last meeting but was deferred pending a plan of what he wanted. Mr. Williams showed Council the proposed plan for the parking area for the store. Councilors voted unanimously to approve the lease.
122. Mayor moved for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Singh motioned that the meeting stands adjourned, Councilor Willoughby seconded the motion. All Councilors present voted in favor to adjourn until February 16th 2016 at 2pm. **MOTION CARRIED**
123. Meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

These minutes, which are the minutes of a Council Meeting of the Belize City Council duly convened and held on 12th of January 2016 were reviewed and approved by a Resolution of the Council dated (26) January, 2016



DARRELL BRADLEY, Mayor

CANDICE BURKE, City Administrator



**Belize City Council
RESOLUTION NO. 10 of 2016**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE POLICY FOR BURIAL

WHEREAS, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

Whereas, the Belize City Council is a duly elected body by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and is entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

Whereas, the Council is responsible to ensure that proper record keeping of deceased persons is kept

Whereas, the Council is to ensure that procedures are in place avoid burial controversies

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Council supports, approves, and confirms the policy for burial will be:

- That only a spouse can be buried in a tomb of a deceased spouse. The person requesting the reopening must be a child or next of kin of the decease. Proof of this in the form of a marriage certificate should be requested.
- For a child to be buried in a parent's tomb, a consent must be signed by all surviving siblings.
- A parent can be buried in the grave of his or her child

In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 26th day of January 2016, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:

**DARRELL BRADLEY
MAYOR**

**CANDICE MILLER
CITY ADMINISTRATOR**





**Belize City Council
RESOLUTION NO. 9 of 2016**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF GPS DEVICES IN COUNCIL VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

Whereas, the Belize City Council is a duly elected body by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and is entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

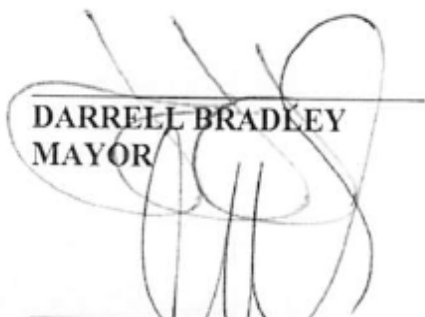
Whereas, the Belize City Council equips departments with a fleet of motor vehicles driven by authorized drivers and managed by a vehicle care unit,

Whereas, the Belize City Council is desirous of accountability for the assets of the Council

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Council supports, approves, and confirms

- The installation of GPS devices in Council's vehicles used by the respective departments.

In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 26th day of January 2016, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:


DARRELL BRADLEY
MAYOR

CANDICE MILLER
CITY ADMINISTRATOR





Belize City Council
RESOLUTION NO. 8 of 2016

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL FOR A LOAN FACILITY

WHEREAS, the Belize City Council, is a body corporate established by Sec 3 (1) of the Belize City Council Act, CAP 85 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000,

Whereas, the Belize City Council is a duly elected body by the residents of Belize City mandated to serve the citizenry and is entrusted with the general rule and good governance of Belize City,

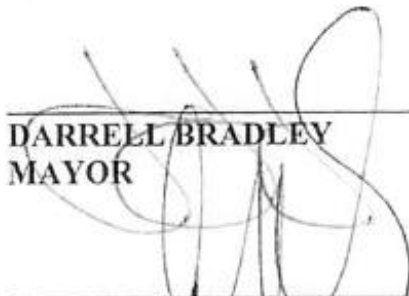
Whereas, the Belize City Council is desirous of completing a project to replace and repair all damaged manhole covers on streets within Belize City,

Whereas, the Belize City Council has engaged the Social Security Board Ltd. in discussions for a loan facility,

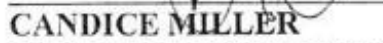
Now therefore, be it resolved that the Council appoints, supports and confirms

- **Councilor Leslie, Councilor Theus, Ms. Candice Miller (City Administrator), Mr. Floyd Williams (City Engineer), Mrs. Marilyn Ordonez (Director of Finance)** to conduct negotiations on behalf of the Council with representatives of the Belize Social Security Board to conclude the terms of the loan, sum, interest rate, and collateral for the proposed project.

In pursuance of an order of the Belize City Council made on the 26th day of January 2016, the Common Seal was hereunto affixed by:



DARRELL BRADLEY
MAYOR



CANDICE MILLER
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

